

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing support;

a top landing support; and

a rise for interconnecting said bottom landing support to said top landing support wherein said rise includes at least one module wherein the module comprises a steel sheet covering an escalator machine, said steel sheet having a top edge, a bottom edge and two side edges extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, respectively, said steel sheet presenting a continuous, unbroken and generally planar exterior surface from said top edge to said bottom edge and between said side edges.

2. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one module is formed as a single piece stamping extending from said bottom landing support to said top landing support and having a U-shape with a horizontal base portion and a pair of vertical side portions.

3. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 2, including at least one reinforcement beam secured to each side portion of said module.

4. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said at least one module is comprises a plurality of stamped modules, each module formed as a single piece stamping having a U-shape with a horizontal base portion and a pair of vertical side portions and including a plurality of attachment plates for securing one stamped module to the next to form said rise.
5. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 4, including a pair of beams for reinforcing each side portion and extending along the length of each stamped module.
6. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one module is formed as a plurality of stamped modules, each module formed from a plurality of stampings including a single bottom piece and a pair of side pieces welded to said bottom piece to form a U-shape; and including a plurality of attachment plates for securing one of said modules to the next of said modules.
7. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 6, including a pair of beams for reinforcing each side portion and extending along the length of each stamped module.

8. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one module is formed as a plurality of stamped modules with each module formed from a pair of stampings welded together and including at least one channel beam secured along one vertical edge of said module for joining with a mating channel beam on one of said adjacent stamped modules.

9. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one module is formed as a plurality of stamped modules with each module formed from a first stamping having a generally vertical body portion with an angled upper edge and an angled lower edge and a second stamping having a generally vertical body portion with an angled upper edge and an angled lower edge, said first and second stampings being joined together such that said angled upper edges extend in opposing directions from each other to form an upper channel and said angled lower edges extending in opposing directions from each other to form a lower channel.

10. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 9, including a plurality of attachment plates for joining side edges of said body portions of one of said stamped modules to the next of said stamped modules.

11. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 10, including a first beam received in said upper channel and a second beam received in said lower channel for reinforcing said rise.

12. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein said angled upper and lower edges extend at a forty-five degree angle relative to said body portion such that said upper and lower channels are form as a ninety degree angle when said first stamping is joined to said second stamping.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the steel sheet module is welded to other portions of the rise along edges of said steel sheet such that said module ~~completely encloses~~ extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover the entire escalator machine.

15. (Withdrawn) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:
a bottom landing module;
a top landing module; and
a rise module for interconnecting said bottom and top landing modules wherein each of said modules is comprised of a plurality of sub-modules each made from a pair of steel forms joined together.

16. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 15, including at least one channel beam secured along one vertical side edge of said sub-module for joining with a mating channel beam on an adjacent sub-module.

17. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein adjacent channel beams are fastened together with a plurality of fasteners.

18. (Withdrawn) An assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein adjacent channel beams are welded together.

19-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing;

a top landing; and

a rise comprising a plurality of support sub-modules wherein one of said support sub-modules includes a steel plate having a top edge, a bottom edge and two side edges extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, respectively, said steel sheet presenting a continuous, unbroken and generally planar exterior surface from said top edge to said bottom edge and between said side edges for covering an escalator drive machine.

28. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein a first one of said side edges is attached to a first one of the support sub-modules and a second one of said side edges is attached to a second one of the support sub-modules.

29. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 28 wherein said steel plate is welded along said first and second edges to connect said steel plate to said first and second sub-modules.
30. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein said steel plate extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover the entire escalator drive machine.
31. (New) An assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein each of said support sub-modules is attached to adjacent support sub-modules forming a rigid framework.